people. They are doing these types of things and the minority people and the Bengali speaking people are being dragged out as Bangladeshis...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is wrong. This House is being mislead. This has never happened. This is wrong...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you have mentioned whatever you wanted to mention. Please take your seat now. What can be done during Zero Hour?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. Rita Verma.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only that will be go on record whatever Prof. Rita Verma speaks.*

(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards this fact that India and Bangladesh have signed an agreement for sharing of Ganga water during recent past. We should resolve dispute with our neighbouring countries and improve our relations with them but the Government of West Bengal should also have bonafide intentions with its neighbouring States. Bihar and Uttar Pradesh will have to suffer heavy loss due to this agreement. We also want that there should be no shortage of water but for that the States like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh cannot be kept dried. So far as the matter of sharing water is concerned, West Bengal has always neglected Bihar. In 1975, when an agreement was signed for sharing of water of Damodar river, which is the main reason for shortage of water in the Vananchal region, it was said that there is 34 thousand cusec feet water in the river and West Bengal needs 30 thousand cusec feet water. Therefore, after taking 30 thousand cusec ft. water to West Bengal should have to provide remaining water to Bihar. But the Government is continuously negelecting Bihar. There is 34 thousand cusec feet water available out of which 30 thousand cusec feet water is being taken by West Bengal and only four thousand cusec feet water is being given to Bihar. This is the main reason of drought in the Vananchal region. We are experiencing acute shortage of water and our crops are drying up for want of water. Mr. Chairman Sir, as per the report of new Irrigation Commission, there is 45 thousand cusec feet water available in Damodar river. Therefore sharing of water of Damodar river should be made again and West Bengal should have benafide intentions for Bihar as it is having with Bangladesh. I would also like to say that our colleagues from West Bengal will also have bonafide intentions in this regard...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot compel the Government to react thereon.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have raised the issue and the Governemnt has heard it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not called you. I have called Shri E. Ahmed.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, the Government has taken note of the feelings which have been expressed by Shri Hannan Mollah.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ramashraya, you get time everyday. Please sit patiently.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Chairman, may I bring to the notice of the Government the grievances of our Indians living in foreign countries? Many of our Indian workers are eking their livelihood in the Gulf countries and the only mode of transport is the airline. Air India is earning substantial revenue from our Indians living abroad. But unfortunately Air India is always hiking the airfare according to its whims and fancies. Only on December 15 last, Air India had decided to hike the airfare from Qatar to India. After Air India had decided to hike the airfare from Qarter to India, all other international airlines also followed suit. I do not know why Air India is taking initiative to get more money from Indian nationals coming to India. At present, this is only from the Gulf countries like Qatar. Once it is started there is a small country like Qatar, from other countries like the UAE, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and everywhere also this airfare will be hiked. I would like to say that more than 80 per cent of the Indian population there, are living as labourers and their employers are not footing their bill for the airfare. Therefore, they are to pay from their own pocket. This unilateral, arbitrary and unacceptable decision of Air India is putting Indians living in Gulf countries to great hardship and difficulties.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to instruct Air India to reconsider this unilateral and arbitrary decision to hike the air fare from Qatar to India. Thank you.

* Not recorded